

REMARKS

Claims 5-13 are currently pending, wherein claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above-identified amendment and allowance of the presently pending claims.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action ("Action"), the Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

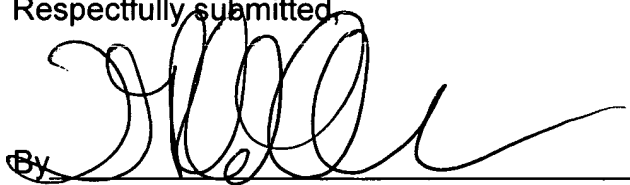
In paragraph 4 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,254,536 to DeVito, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,349,231 to Musha. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

The application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Penny Caudle (Reg. No. 46,607) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 9, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Anderson', written over a horizontal line.

D. Richard Anderson
Registration No.: 40,439
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant